UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/23155
21 October 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

# LETTER DATED 18 OCTOBER 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES OF BELGIUM, FRANCE, THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS, THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

We have the honour to bring to your attention the text of the declaration on Yugoslavia adopted by the European Community and its member States, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America, and issued at The Hague on 18 October.

We should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Paul NOTERDAEME
Permanent Representative of
Belgium to the United Nations

(Signed) Jean-Bernard P. H. P. MERIMEE
Permanent Representative of
France to the United Nations

(Signed) Yuliy M. VORONTSOV
Permanent Representative of the
Union of Soviet Socialist
Republics to the United Nations

(Signed) David HANNAY
Permanent Representative of the
United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland to the
United Nations

(Signed) Thomas R. PICKERING
Permanent Representative of the
United States of America
to the United Nations

Annex

[Original: English/French/
Russian]

Declaration on Yugoslavia, issued at The Hague
on 18 October 1991

The European Community and its member States, the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics are deeply concerned by the continuing violence and bloodshed in Yugoslavia. None of the cease-fire accords agreed on over the last three months appear to have been implemented in full. We are convinced that cease-fire accords offer the only path away from further worsening of this conflict and towards a peaceful and just resolution.

We call upon the Presidents of the Republics, who will participate in Friday's plenary meeting of the Conference on Yugoslavia, to reaffirm their commitment to the peace process and to adhere absolutely to the commitments they have already made.

In calling for an end to hostilities and observance of the cease-fire agreements, we are motivated by concern for the fate of all peoples of Yugoslavia, for the rights of all ethnic minorities, and for the future of the Balkan region and of Europe as a whole. We are distressed by the terrible violence and loss of life that has occurred and by the possibility of even worse suffering if the conflict is not resolved. We are particularly disturbed by reports of continued attacks on civilian targets by elements of the federal armed forces and by both Serbian and Croatian irregular forces. The continuation of military activities in Croatia threatens to extend the armed confrontation to other regions of Yugoslavia.

Our common desire is to promote a speedy and complete halt to all military activities as an essential precondition to a settlement. We condemn the use of force for the settlement of political differences. We also reject the use of force to change established borders, whether internal or external. Such actions are totally unacceptable in 1991 in the heart of Europe. The principles of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe with regard to borders, minority rights and political pluralism guide our approach towards resolution of this conflict and should be respected and adhered to by the parties in Yugoslavia themselves. We will not accept any outcome that violates these principles.

Croatia and the Yugoslav National Army should make a serious start with discussion about the status of the Yugoslav National Army in the interim period. The European Community, through its monitor mission or otherwise, could facilitate this process.

The United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics reiterate their full support for the efforts of the European Community and its member States, under mandate by the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, to mediate a peaceful resolution to the Yugoslav crisis, in particular through the Conference on Yugoslavia and the Arbitration Commission set up within its framework.

The United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics express their readiness to support restrictive measures applied by the European Community to help achieve a successful outcome of the Conference on Yugoslavia.

The European Community and its member States, the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics also endorse the efforts of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to further the prospects for a peaceful settlement.

---